

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

TRSE-00 FEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

/076 W

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R 040946Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9294

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4413

PASS TO NOOTER, AID/SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LA, EMIN

SUBJ: MINERAL RESOURCES

1. VANG PAO'S XIENG KHOUANG DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION THROUGH CONTRACT WITH FLOURSPAR MINING AND DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD., A HIGHLY RESPONSIBLE THAI ORGANIZATION, HAS UNDERTAKEN A PARTIAL BUT NONETHELESS EXTENSIVE SURVEY OF MINERAL RESOURCES WITHIN THAT PORTION OF MR II UNDER CONTROL OF VIENTIANE SIDE.
2. PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF DATA NOW BECOMING AVAILABLE FROM REFERENT SURVEY INDICATES THAT SUBSTANTIAL HIGH GRADE IRON ORE DEPOSITS WITH COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN AN AREA SOUTHEAST OF LONG TIENG. IN ADDITION, SMALLER DEPOSITS OF GALENA, COPPER AND ZINC HAVE BEEN LOCATED.
3. FINAL SURVEY REPORT BY FLOURSPAR SHOULD BE COMPLETED NOT LATER THAN END-JUNE. THIS REPORT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE BY XIENG KHOUANG DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION TO PRIME MINISTER AND DIRECOTR OF MINES, AS WELL AS TO U.S. MISSION.

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4. PURPOSE THIS MESSAGE IS TO KEEP WASHINGTON AGENCIES

INFORMED AND TO ALERT THAT IT MIGHT WELL BE IN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT EXTENSIVE QUANTITIES OF EXPLOITABLE MINERALS ARE NOT ONLY IN PATHET LAO HELD TERRITORY BUT ALSO IN AREAS OF MR II UNDER CONTROL OF VIENTIANE SIDE.

5. WE REALIZE THAT SHOULD FINAL REPORT CONFIRM PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF MORE THAN 50 MILLION TONS OF HIGH GRADE IRON ORE, ANY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE WITH POTENTIAL INTEREST WOULD WANT TO MAKE ITS OWN EVALUATION.

6. NO REPEAT NO CIRCULATION TO TRADE SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AT THIS JUNCTURE; HOWEVER, ONCE FINAL REPORT AVAILABLE WE WOULD HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE CIRCULATED WIDELY IN ESTABLISHED MANNER TO INTERESTED PARTIES.
WHITEHOUSE

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